

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks. Applicants amend claims 22-23 and 29-30 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 27 and 28 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection of Claims 22-25, 27, 29-32 and 34 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 22-25, 27, 29-32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ezzat et al. (“Visual Speech Synthesis by Morphing Visemes”) (“Ezzat et al.”) in view of Jiang et al. (“Visual Speech Analysis with Application to Mandarin Speech Training”) (“Jiang et al.”) and further in view of Hunt (“Unit Selection in a Concatenative Speech Synthesis System Using a Large Speech Database”) (“Hunt”). Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claims 28 and 35 into the respective independent claims. Applicants do not acquiesce to the appropriateness of this rejection and reserve the right to argue for broader claims in a continuation. However, the amendments render this rejection moot at this stage.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action states that claims 28 and 35 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 28 and 35 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections and objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge or credit the **Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP, Account No. 14-1437** for any deficiency or overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:  _____

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